

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

31 13

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 922 Whipple Road

Historic Name: Thomas Crosby Jr House & site of
Crosby Cannino Factory

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Residential (2-unit)

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1842

Source: Local History & Assessors Records

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Vinyl Siding

Replacement Windows

Barn Removed (c1980)

Farm acreage Subdivided into Ferncroft Estates (c1977)

Pool (1960s)

Condition:

Moved: no | | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 2.02 Acres

Setting: Located in a formerly rural area developed in the second half of the 20th century as a suburban residential area.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (*month / year*): March 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY 922 WHIPPLE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The house at **922 Whipple Road** is a two-and-a-half story dwelling. The five by three bay building is rectangular in plan and rests on a granite foundation. A one-story ell projects from the rear (east) of the main portion of the house. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. Windows are 1/1 sash vinyl replacement windows flanked by shutters. The centrally located entrance is flanked by sidelights and an ornate surround. The surround features a pediment with supporting pilasters. A secondary side entrance is located on the south elevation. A third entrance is located on the south elevation of the rear ell. Both doors are late 20th century replacement metal doors with an oval glass pane. The rear (east) ell features two late 20th century bay windows and is connected to a storage shed with a mono pitch roof at the east end. A brick chimney projects from the rear slope of the main roof.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The house at 922 Whipple Road was constructed c 1842 according to local history. In 1852 and 1875 it was the residence of T Crosby [Jr]. Thomas Crosby, Jr (1813- 1881), was a farmer and son of Thomas and Sarah [Sally] Crosby of Tewksbury. Thomas Crosby Sr moved from Billerica to Tewksbury 1802-1803.¹ It is possible that portions of the house predate 1842 and were part of the father's homestead. An internal investigation of the structure would be necessary to determine an earlier date.

Thomas Crosby Jr. married his wife Alice [Allis] c 1838 and they had a son Charles in 1841 and a son George in 1850. Alice died in 1880 and Thomas Jr in 1881. Their son George inherited their farm. George, like his father was a farmer, but he also established the Crosby Canning Factory on his Whipple Road farm. He canned dried beef and squash and later expanded to corn, tomatoes, and other veggies. George Crosby also canned for others personal use. George Crosby married his wife Mary (1845-) in 1870.

George Crosby died c 1912 and his estate, which included 37 acres and the house on the east side of Whipple Road, 17 acres on the west side of Whipple Road, and two acres between Pond Street and Long Pond, were sold to Judson and Mary Parsons. Within months the farm was again sold to Edith Cole, who sold it immediately to Michael P Mahoney and his wife Mary of Tyngsboro. According to property valuation in 1948 922 Whipple Road included the Mahoney house, a 3 car garage, a barn, and a henhouse.

Mary Mahoney died in 1945 and her husband in 1947. The Mahoney's farm and home were inherited by their sons John P Mahoney and Dr. Hugh Mahoney, an OBGYN. In 1963 the 37 acre house lot was deed to Dr. Mahoney and his wife Ruth. The brothers sold the lot on the west side of Whipple Road now occupied by 919 Whipple Road in 1969.

On Dec 31 1975 Dr Hugh Mahoney, his wife Ruth, and son John (age 14) were shot and killed in their home during a botched home invasion on New Year's Eve. Their three young daughters were not home and survived their parents. The house remained vacant for several years following until the land and house were sold to a development corporation in 1977. That year the farm was subdivided into 32 house lots known as Ferncroft Estates. The Mahoney daughters, Mary Ellen, Jane, and Maureen, retained two lots of the family farm on the shores of Long Pond, Tax Map 31 Lots 7 and 55, until 1996 when they were sold to The Perry Family Trust.

¹ Hazen, Henry Allen. *History of Billerica, Massachusetts*. Boston: A Williams & Co, 1883.

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Additional Owners of 922 Whipple Road include: Yvon Cormier Construction Corp (1976-1977); Roger & Marie LeBlanc (1977-); Doug & Nancy Whelton (2007-2009). The land to the rear of the house was bisected by the transmission corridor c1935 by an easement to the New England Power Company. Nine acres of the farm on the west side of Whipple Road are now occupied by the Pond Street Pumping Station and the small ponds are conserved by the Town of Tewksbury. The Crosby barn was located to the southeast of the existing house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- U.S. Census Records. 1790-1930.
- Directories. 1896-97, 1898-99, 1900-01, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1919, 1927, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1937-38, 1940-41, 1942-1943, 1949 [Ancestry], 1953, 1955, 1961, and 1967.
- Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852. Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.
- 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.
- List of Residents by Streets, Ages 17 years and over, In the Town of Tewksbury Mass. As prepared by the Board of Registrars (various years 1965-)
- Valuations of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury.
- North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.
- _____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.
- Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.

